

Government takes out further injunction against climate activists blocking key roads

- National Highways granted new injunction covering Strategic Road Network in and around London.
- Those who breach the injunction will be in contempt of court and at risk of imprisonment and an unlimited fine.
- National Highways also granted court order to enable police to release the names and addresses of activists to assist the service of papers by High Court Officers.
- Comes as protestors are being served with court papers following M25 and Port of Dover demonstrations.

The government has taken out a fresh injunction to target protesters who cause disruption on any of the highways on the Strategic Road Network linked to the M25 in the south east.

The new injunction bans activities that obstruct traffic and access to motorways and major A Roads in and around London. It also bans activities which cause damage to the road surface and infrastructure and prohibits activists from gluing themselves to the road or abandoning their vehicles.

Anyone who breaks this injunction faces imprisonment or an unlimited fine. Activists found in contempt of court may also be forced to repay the costs of their case.

Furthermore the police will now be able to release information on the activists, as well as evidence, to National Highways so that the injunctions can be enforced. This will speed up the enforcement process and ensure that those who disobey the authority of the courts face the consequences.

A number of activists have already been served with court papers and may face a court hearing and imprisonment or a fine for contempt of court if they are found to be in breach of the injunctions going forward.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said:

We will continue to do all we can to prevent this self-defeating, disruptive and incredibly dangerous behaviour being carried out by Insulate Britain. They are putting lives in danger and damaging their own cause. Today, we're ensuring every major road and motorway linked to the M25 is covered by this injunction to help prevent further disruption.

Activists are being tracked down and served court papers and will now face justice. We will take the strongest action against anyone

else who decides to take part in this ridiculous and irresponsible action.

National Highways Regional Director Nicola Bell said:

This new injunction covering the Strategic Road Network in and around London is another step forward in helping to keep these reckless and dangerous protests away from our network and endangering peoples' lives.

We continue to serve court papers on those who have breached the previous injunctions, and repeat offenders will soon be receiving a court summons. People who breach the injunctions face imprisonment or an unlimited fine.

National Highways has already taken out two injunctions to prevent action along the M25, as well as major roads around the Port of Dover, following the dangerous disruption caused by demonstrators from Insulate Britain. These injunctions are a short-term solution to tackle the highly disruptive protests we have seen over the last few weeks, and the Government has committed to legislating to prevent these kinds of guerrilla tactics in the long-term through the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill.